

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 6-13 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 3 and cancels claims 2, 4, and 5. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, by way of example, from original claim 2 and from page 7, lines 3-4 of the specification and also Example 1. Hence, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 14 are all the claims that are under examination. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acceptance of the drawings filed on July 26, 2006.

Acknowledgment of Priority

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nakagawa (JP 2002-19413, hereinafter "Nakagawa"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Nakagawa discloses that "As for the above-mentioned steel cord, it is preferred to devote oneself to a belt and to apply by number: 10-6050 mm/. That is, if the number of placing of rigidity is too low in less than ten [/50 mm], driving stability is checked and 60/50 mm are surpassed on the other hand, rigidity will become high too much and road-hugging will fall." See paragraph [0038].

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the feature that the count of steel cord is in a range from 38 to 60 pieces/25 mm. Applicant submits that the count of steel

cord in Nakagawa is in a range from 5 to 30 pieces/25 mm. As a result, the count of steel cord in a range from 38 to 60 pieces/25 mm according to the present invention is clearly different and unobvious from the count of steel cord in Nakagawa.

The Examiner insists that while Nakagawa fails to expressly disclose the in plane and out of plane rigidity, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have expected the tread portion of Nakagawa to satisfy the claimed ranges. However, as noted above, Applicant submits that the tread portion of Nakagawa has the count of steel cord in a range from 5 to 30 pieces/25 mm and hence only corresponds to Conventional Examples 1 and 2 in the present specification. Therefore, it is clear that the tread portion of Nakagawa is not satisfied the claimed ranges. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not obvious in light of Nakagawa.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a pneumatic radial tire for a motorcycle, which exhibits improved steering stability at high speed cornering while holding various performances such as high speed durability and straight running stability. See page 3, lines 6-10 in the present specification.

On the other hand, Nakagawa discloses that "Then, in the radial-ply tire containing air for two-wheeled vehicles which applied the steel cord of single twist structure to the belt, an object of this invention is to propose endurance about the method for improving, aiming at the outstanding advancing stability and vibration absorption coexistence." See paragraph [0010].

Therefore, the object of the present invention is clearly different from that of Nakagawa's invention.

As a result, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is different in object, construction and effect from teachings disclosed in the cited reference, and hence cannot also be found obvious in view of Nakagawa.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Applicant submits that claims 3 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

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